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CASTRO CAPTIVES

LONDON REUTERS IN ENGLISH TO NORTH AMERICA 1253 21 MAY 61 E

(EXCERPTS) HAVANA—SOME 1,200 CAPTIVES FROM LAST MONTH'S AGGRESSIVE INVASION TODAY MET RELATIVES FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE BEING TAKEN PRISONER. MORE THAN 3,000 RELATIVES WERE REUNDED WITH THE PRISONERS, WEARING YELLOW VESTS AND CAMOUFLAGE TROUSERS, AT A NAVAL HOSPITAL THREE MILES EAST OF HERE WHERE THEY ARE BEING HELD. MOST PRISONERS APPEARED TO BE MEN IN THEIR 20'S.

AT LEAST ONE PRISONER HAD NO VISITORS. HE WAS MANUEL ARTIGUE. ARTIGUE TOLD REPORTERS HE WAS "HAPPY THAT OTHER BOYS ARE LIKELY TO HAVE THEMSELVES AND NO FEAR UNDER THE TRACTOR EXCHANGE DEAL." "I DON'T CARE IF THEY SHOOT ME," ARTIGUE SAID. HE SAID THAT IF HE WERE RELEASED HE WOULD FIRST OF ALL TRY TO FIND OUT WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FAILURE OF THE INVASION. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION, ARTIGUE SAID: "IF IT WAS THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, IT WASN'T VERY INTELLIGENT."

21 MAY 0300 LSW/AM